

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 8-11 and 14-17 are pending, with Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14 and 15 amended and Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 18 canceled by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Matsunomi (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0031200); Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Zirnstein (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/00019643); Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14 and 15 were indicated as allowable; and Claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants traverse the outstanding rejections. However, to expedite progress, the claims are hereby amended to place the present application in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the currently rejected claims.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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